

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary Public

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Chile

Post: Santiago

SAG's Import Inspection - Vegetable Products

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Monitoring

Approved By:

Rachel Bickford, agricultural Attaché

Prepared By:

Nelson Ramirez, Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

Imports and certifications procedure implemented by the Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG) of the Ministry of Agriculture get ISO 9001 certification. Under this new certification, inspectors have little room for discretionary decisions and full enforcement of the law is required.

Executive Summary:

Imports and certifications procedure implemented by the Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG) of the Ministry of Agriculture get ISO 9001 certification. Under this new certification, inspectors have little room for discretionary decisions and full enforcement of the law is required.

Following a modernization of all services of the Livestock and Agricultural Service (SAG) of the Ministry of Agriculture, in June 2013 SAG was accredited and certified under ISO 9001 on a Quality Assurance System. The so called IMPORT INSPECTION CONTROL that covers plants, animal products, agricultural supplies, and all products regulated by SAG instructs officials to a strict compliance with the import regulations. Therefore, any deviation from the norm is almost impossible.

The regulations have not changed but from now, the inspectors have little room for arbitrary decision, the ISO certification obligates the inspectors to follow and enforce present regulations, a process that is standard to all trading partners.

Document verification:

- If the product comes to Chile with no certification from the Official Sanitary Authority or if the product is not regulated in Chile, the shipment will be rejected.

Physical verification:

- If the shipment contains soil or the species does not match what the certification says, the shipment will be rejected.
- Adulteration of the labels leads to the rejection of the shipment.
- In the case of live pest interception, the shipment will be rejected if:
 - It is a quarantine pest or,
 - There is no effective treatment to control the pest or there are no means of verification of the effectiveness of the treatment or,
 - There are no authorized companies in Chile to apply the treatment or,
 - In the case of plants or parts of plants that need quarantine post entry, if this is a quarantine pest or the identification of the pest is not possible due to the evolutionary stage.